1/20/94 AC 150/5390-2A

CHAPTER 9. HELIPORT GRADIENTS AND PAVEMENT DESIGN

- **75. GENERAL.** This chapter provides guidance on the designing heliport pavements, including design loads, and addresses soil stabilization as a method of treating non-paved operational surfaces.
- **76. GRADIENTS.** Operational surfaces such as the FATO, TLOF, parking apron, taxi route, and taxiway should present a reasonably smooth, uniformly graded surface.
- **a. Soft Surfaces.** The "soft" unpaved surfaces of a heliport should be graded to be free of surface irregularities and be designed to provide positive drainage. Longitudinal and transverse gradients of soft surfaces may range between a minimum of 2.0 to a maximum of 5.0 percent. A maximum gradient of 2.0 percent should be established for any soft surface on which the helicopter is expected to land.
- **b.** Hard Surfaces. The "hard" surfaces of a heliport, whether paved or of metal or wood plank construction, should be designed to present a smooth surface and provide positive drainage. Longitudinal and transverse gradients of hard surfaces may range between a minimum of 0.5 to a maximum of 2.0 percent. Paved surfaces should be designed with a shoulder as illustrated in figure 9-1 to ensure that water is carried away from the pavement.
- 77. **DESIGN LOADS.** Heliport "hard" load bearing surfaces should be designed and constructed to support the weight of the design helicopter. Helicopter weights are listed in Appendix 1. Loads are applied through the contact area of the tires for wheel equipped helicopters or the contact area of the skid for skid equipped helicopters. Helicopter landing gear contact area configurations are illustrated in Figure 9-2.
- **a. Static Loadings.** For design purposes, the design static load is equal to the helicopter's maximum takeoff weight applied through the total contact area of the wheels or skids.
- **b. Dynamic Loadings.** A dynamic load of 1/5 second or less duration may occur during a hard landing. For design purposes, dynamic loadings may be assumed at 150 percent of the takeoff weight of the design helicopter. When specific loading data is not available, assume 75 percent of the weight of the design helicopter to be applied equally through the main landing gears of a

wheel equipped helicopter, or through the aft contact areas (See figure 9-2) of a skid equipped helicopter.

- **c. Rotor Loading.** Rotor (down wash) loadings are approximately equal to the weight of the helicopter distributed uniformly over the disk area of the rotor. Tests have established that rotor (down wash) loadings are generally less than the loadings specified in building codes for snow, rain, or wind loadings typically used in structural design calculations.
- **78. PAVEMENT** DESIGN AND SOIL STABILIZATION. Pavements distribute the helicopters weight over a larger area of the subsurface as well as providing a water impervious, skid resistant wearing surface. Paving TLOFs, taxiways and parking aprons is encouraged to improve their load carrying ability, to minimize the erosive effects of rotor wash, and to facilitate surface runoff. Stabilizing unpaved portions of the FATO and taxi routes subjected to rotor wash is also encouraged. Guidance on pavement design and on stabilizing soils is contained in AC 150/5320-6, Airport Pavement Design and Evaluation, and AC 150/5370-10, Standards for Specifying Construction of Airports.
- **a. Pavements.** In most instances, a 6 inch (15 cm) thick Portland Cement Concrete (PCC) pavement is capable of supporting operations by helicopters weighing up to 20,000 pounds (9 216 kg). Thicker pavements are generally not required unless heavier helicopters are expected, or the quality of the subsurface soil is questionable. PCC pavement is recommended for all heliport surfaces used by skid equipped helicopters.
- **b.** Stabilizing Soils. Different methods of soil stabilization may be used to meet different site requirements.
- (1) Turf. A dense well-drained turf is the least intrusive and most cost effective way to develop a usable landing surface capable of supporting the weight of many of the helicopters used by private and corporate operators. Climatic and soil conditions dictate the appropriate grass species to use at the site to provide protection against rotor induced erosion.
- (2) Aggregate-Turf. The load carrying capability of poor soils may be improved by mixing selected granular materials such as crushed stone, pitrun gravel, coarse sand, oyster shell, etc. into the upper 12 inches (30 cm) of the soil. The ratio of aggregate to

soil must be sufficient to improve the stability of the soil yet retain the soils ability to support grass.

- c. Formed Masonry Shapes. Pre-cast masonry shapes vary in size and shape from a brick paver to an open block. Pavers can be laid on a prepared bed to present a solid surface. Pre-cast blocks can be embedded in the soil with grass growing in the natural openings. Architectural catalogs identify different masonry shapes that are commercially available for this purpose.
- **d. Pierced Metal Panels.** Perforated metal panels, that allow grass to grow through the openings, can be laid on the ground to provide a hard surface for helicopter operations. Engineering catalogs identify commercially available panels.

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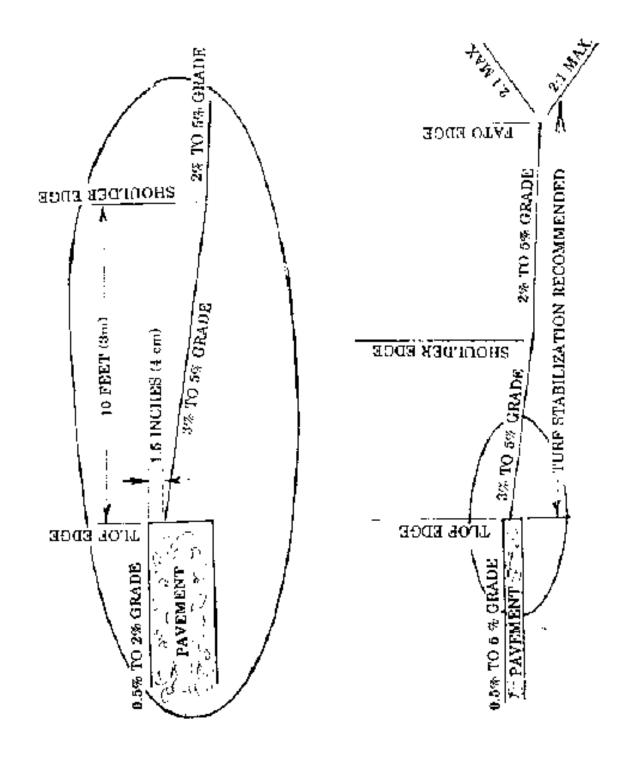
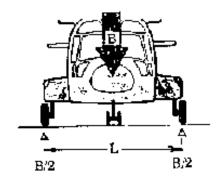
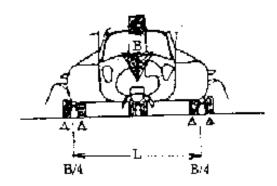


Figure 9-1. Heliport grades and shoulder



TYPICAL SINGLE WHEEL CONFIGURATION



TYPICAL DUAL WHEEL CONFIGURATION

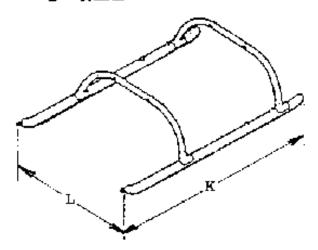
B = GROSS WEIGHT

B/2 = GROSS WEIGHT/GEAR/SKID

B/4 = GROSS WEIGHT/TIRE

 $\mathbf{K} = \mathbf{WHEEL}$ BASE/SKID LENGTH

L = TREAD



TYPICAL SKID CONFIGURATION

Figure 9-2. Helicopter landing gear loading

APPENDIX 1. HELICOPTER DATA

This appendix contains selected helicopter data needed by a heliport designer. The data represent the most critical weight, dimensional, or other data entry for that helicopter model recognizing that specific versions of the model may weigh less, be smaller in some feature, carry fewer passengers, etc.

- A Manufacturer and helicopter model.
- B Maximum takeoff weight in pounds.
- C Overall length in feet. (Rotors at their maximum extension.)
- D Overall height in feet. (Usually at tail rotor.)
- E Rotor diameter in feet/no. of blades
- F Rotor plane clearance in feet.
- G Distance rotor hub to tail in feet.
- H Tail rotor diameter (in feet). No Blades.

The published information has been verified by the various helicopter manufacturers and is current as of the date of publication. If more specific data is needed the specific helicopter manufacturer should be contacted. Appendix X lists manufacturers' addresses.

- I Tail rotor ground clearance in feet.
- J Gear pattern.
- K Undercarriage length in feet. (Strut to strut.)
- L Undercarriage width in feet. (The distance between tire or skid centers.)
- M Number and type of engines.
- N Number of crew and passengers.
- O Standard fuel capacity in gallons.

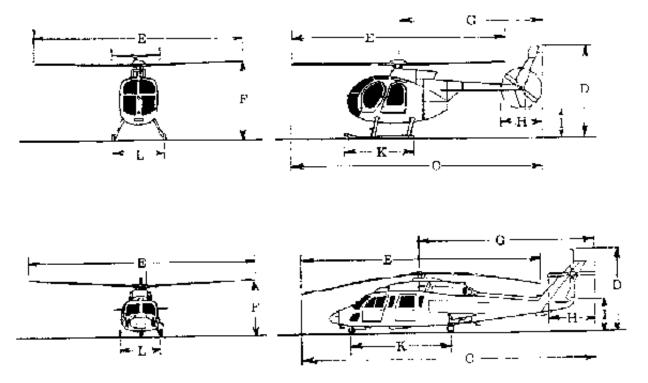


Figure At-1. Helicopter dimensions

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APPENDIX 2. MARKING DIMENSIONS

1. **PUBLIC USE HELIPORT.** The letter H, illustrated in figure A2-1, identifies a facility as a public use heliport. The H is centered in the TLOF or the intended landing position of an unpaved FATO and aligned with the preferred direction of approach. The recommended height of the H is the lesser of 0.8 times

the TLOF length, 1.2 times the TLOF width, or 60 feet (18 m). The recommended width is 0.66 times the H's height. Width of vertical lines should be 0.07 times the H's height and width of the horizontal lines should be 0.14 times the H's height. When a black border is provided, it should be 0.02 times the H's height.

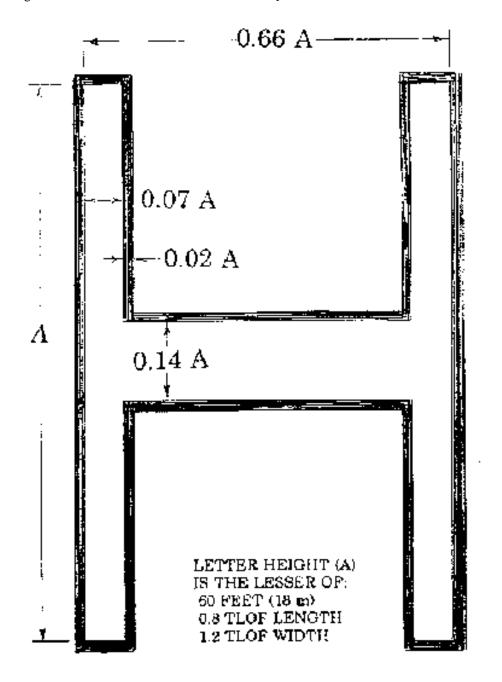


Figure A2-1. Standard belipon H marking

Appendix 2

2. HOSPITAL HELIPORT. The cross marking identifying a hospital heliport is illustrated in figure A2-2. It is a configuration of 4 squares abutting on a center square. The recommended height and width of the cross is 0.8 times the TLOF's least dimension but not more than 30 feet (9 m). The red capital letter H,

located in the center of the square, is the height of the center square with a width that is 0.66 the height of the center square. The width of vertical lines should be 0.1 times the H's height and the width of the horizontal lines should be 0.2 times the H's height. The cross may have a red border

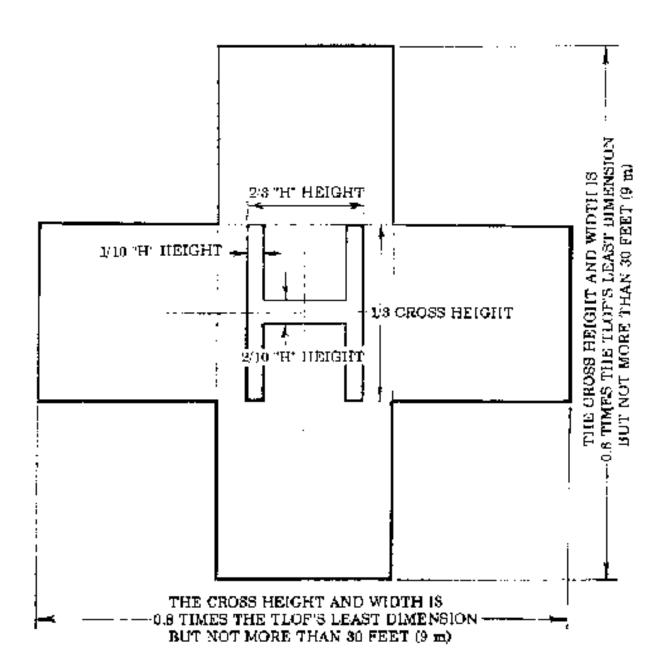


Figure A2-2. Hospital heliport marking

3. OTHER. A letter/numeral within a circle may be placed on/adjacent to the line at entry points to identify a parking position. When all positions are not able to accommodate the design helicopter, each position must be marked to indicate the largest rotor diameter that

the position is capable of accommodating. This may be indicated by placing the position letter/number above the number of the design rotor diameter at each entry point to the position. Figure A2-3 illustrates the recommended marking.

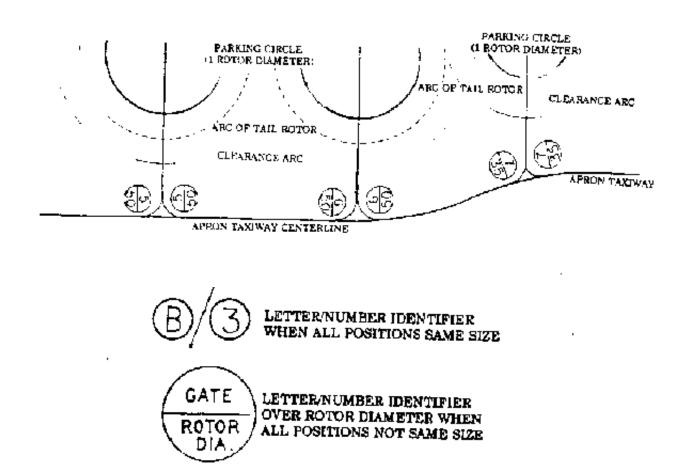


Figure A2-3. Other markings

APPENDIX 3. AVIATION ORGANIZATIONS

STATE AVIATION OFFICES

ALABAMA

Alabama Department Of Aeronautics 770 Washington Avenue, Suite 544 Montgomery, AL 36130 Telephone 205-242-4972 FAX 205-240-3274

ALASKA

Department of Transportation & Public Facilities
P.O. Box 196900
Anchorage, AK 99519-6900
Telephone 907-266-1465
FAX 907-243-1512

ARIZONA

Division of Aeronautics Arizona Department of Transportation 2612 South 46th Street Phoenix, AZ 85034 Telephone 602-255-7691 FAX 602-255-7037

ARKANSAS

Department of Aeronautics Regional Airport Terminal Building No. 1 Airport Drive Little Rock, AR 72202 Telephone 501-376-6781 FAX 501-378-0820

CALIFORNIA

Division of Aeronautics California Department of Transportation 1130 K Street, 4th Floor P.O. Box 942873 Sacramento, CA 94273-0001 Telephone 916-322-9965 FAX 916-327-9093

COLORADO

Division of Aeronautics Colorado Department of Transportation 6848 South Revere Parkway, Suite 3-101 Englewood, CO 80112-6703 Telephone 303-397-3045 FAX 303-397-3042

CONNECTICUT

Bureau of Aviation and Ports Connecticut Department of Transportation 24 Wolcott Hill Road P.O. Drawer A Wethersfield, CT 06129-0801 Telephone 203-566-3076 FAX 203-566-4904

DELAWARE

Aeronautics Administration
Delaware Transportation Authority
Department of Transportation
P.O. Box 778
Dover, DE 19903
Telephone 302-739-3264
FAX 302-739-5711

FLORIDA

Aviation Office Florida Department of Transportation 605 Suwannee Street Mail Stop 46 Tallahassee, FL 32399-0450 Telephone 904-488-8444 FAX 904-487-3403

GEORGIA

Georgia Department of Transportation Office of Intermodal Programs 276 Memorial Drive, SW Atlanta, GA 30303-3743 Telephone 404-651-9201 FAX 404-651-5209

Appendix 2

HAWAII

Airports Division Hawaii Department of Transportation Honolulu International Airport Honolulu, HI 96819-1898 Telephone 808-836-6542

FAX 808-836-6441

IDAHO

Bureau of Aeronautics Idaho Department of Transportation 3483 Rickenbacker Street P.O. Box 7129 Boise, ID 83705 Telephone 208-334-8786 FAX 208-334-8789

ILLINOIS

Division of Aeronautics Department of Transportation Capital Airport - One Langhorne Bond Dr. Springfield, IL 62707-8415 Telephone 217-785-8544 FAX 217-785-4533

INDIANA

Division of Aeronautics Indiana Department of Transportation 143 West Market Street, Suite 300 Indianapolis, IN 46204 Telephone 317-232-1496 FAX 317-232-1499

IOWA

Office of Aeronautics Air and Transit Division Iowa Department of Transportation International Airport Des Moines, IA 50321 Telephone 515-287-3315 FAX 515-287-7731

KANSAS

Division of Aviation Kansas Department of Transportation Docking State Office Building 915 SW Harrison Topeka, KS 66612-1568 Telephone 913-296-2553 FAX 913-296-7927 **KENTUCKY**

Office of Aeronautics Kentucky Transportation Cabinet 421 Ann Street Frankfort, KY 40622 Telephone 502-564-4480 FAX 502-564-7953

LOUISIANA

Aviation Division
Department of Transportation & Development
P.O. Box 94245
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9245
Telephone 504-379-1242
FAX 504-379-1394

MAINE

Air Transportation Division Maine Department of Transportation State House Station #16 Augusta, ME 04333 Telephone 207-289-3186 FAX 207-289-2805

MARYLAND

Maryland Aviation Administration Maryland Department of Transportation P.O. Box 8766 Baltimore/Washington Intl. Airport MD 21240 Telephone 410-859-7100 FAX 410-850-4729

MASSACHUSETTS

Massachusetts Aeronautics Commission 10 Park Plaza, Room 6620 Boston, MA 02116-3966 Telephone 617-973-7350 FAX 617-973-7351

MICHIGAN

Bureau of Aeronautics Department of Transportation 2nd Floor, Terminal Building Capital City Airport Lansing, MI 48906 Telephone 517-373-1834 FAX 517-886-0366

MINNESOTA

Aeronautics Office

Minnesota Department of Transportation Transportation Building, Room 417 395 John Ireland Boulevard St. Paul, MN 55155 Telephone 612-296-8202 FAX 612-297-5643

MISSISSIPPI

Mississippi Aeronautics Bureau
Department of Economic & Community Development
100 Airport Drive
Jackson, MS 39208
Telephone 601-354-6970
FAX 601-354-6969

MISSOURI

Department of Highways & Transportation Aviation Section P.O. Box 270 Jefferson City, MO 65102 Telephone 314-751-2589 FAX 314-751-6555

MONTANA

Aeronautics Division Department of Transportation P.O. Box 5178 Helena, MT 59604 Telephone 406-444-2506 FAX 406-444-2519

NEBRASKA

Nebraska Department of Aeronautics P.O. Box 82088 Lincoln, NB 68501 Telephone 402-471-2371 FAX 402-471-2906

NEVADA

Nevada Department of Transportation 1263 South Stewart Street Carson City, NV 89712 Telephone 702-687-5440 FAX 702-687-4846

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Division of Aeronautics New Hampshire Department of Transportation Municipal Airportú65 Airport Road Concord, NH 03302-5298 Telephone 603-271-2551 FAX 603-271-1689 **NEW JERSEY**

Office of Aviation

New Jersey Department of Transportation

1035 Parkway Avenue CN 610

Trenton, NJ 08625

Telephone 609-530-2900 FAX 609-530-5719

NEW MEXICO

Aviation Division

State Highway and Transportation Department

P.O. Box 1149

Santa Fe, NM 87504-1149 Telephone 505-827-0332 FAX 505-827-0431

NEW YORK

Aviation Division New York State Department of Transportation 1220 Washington Avenue

Albany, NY 12232

Telephone 518-457-2821 FAX 518-457-9779

NORTH CAROLINA

Division of Aviation North Carolina Department of Transportation P.O. Box 25201 Raleigh, NC 27611 Telephone 919-840-0112 FAX 919-840-0645

NORTH DAKOTA

North Dakota Aeronautics Commission 2301 University Drive Box 5020 Bismarck, ND 58502 Telephone 701-224-2748 FAX 701-224-2780

OHIO

Ohio Department of Transportation Division of Aviation 2829 West Dublin-Granville Road Columbus, OH 43235 Telephone 614-793-5040 FAX 614 761-9609

OKLAHOMA

Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission Department of Transportation Building 200 N.E. 21st Street, B-7 1st Floor Oklahoma City OK 73105 Telephone 405-521-2377 FAX 405-521-2524

Appendix 2

OREGON

Division of Aeronautics Oregon Department of Transportation 3040 - 25th Street, S.E. Salem, OR 97310 Telephone 503-378-4880 FAX 503-373-1688

PENNSYLVANIA

Bureau of Aviation Pennsylvania Department of Transportation 208 Airport Drive Harrisburg International Airport Middletown, PA 17057 Telephone 717-948-3915 FAX 717-948-3527

PUERTO RICO

Puerto Rico Ports Authority P.O. Box 362829 San Juan, PR 00936-2829 Telephone 809-723-2260 FAX 809-722-7867

RHODE ISLAND

Rhode Island Department of Transportation Department of Airports Theodore Francis Green State Airport Warwick, RI 02886 Telephone 401-737-4000 FAX 401-732-4953

SOUTH CAROLINA

South Carolina Aeronautics Commission P.O. Box 280068 Columbia, SC 29228-0068 Telephone 803-822-5400 FAX 803-822-8002

SOUTH DAKOTA

Office of Aeronautics 700 Broadway Avenue East Pierre, SD 57501-2586 Telephone 605-773-3574 FAX 605-773-3921

TENNESSEE

Office of Aeronautics Tennessee Department of Transportation P.O. Box 17326 Nashville, TN 37217 Telephone 615-741-3208 FAX 615-741-4959

TEXAS

Texas Department of Transportation Division of Aeronautics P.O. Box 12607 Austin, TX 78711-2607 Telephone 512-476-9262 FAX 512-479-0294

UTAH

Aeronautical Operations Division Utah Department of Transportation 135 North 2400 West Salt Lake City, UT 84116 Telephone 801-533-5057 FAX 801-533-6048

VERMONT

Agency of Transportation 133 State Street Montpelier, VT 05633 Telephone 802-828-2093 FAX 802-828-2829

VIRGINIA

Department of Aviation 4508 S. Laburnum Avenue Richmond, VA 23231-2422 Telephone 804-786-1364 FAX 804-786-3690

WASHINGTON

Division of Aeronautics Washington Department of Transportation 8600 Perimeter Road-Boeing Field Seattle, WA 98108-3885 Telephone 206-764-4131 FAX 206-764-4001

WEST VIRGINIA

Department of Transportation Building 5, Room A-109 West Virginia State Capital Charleston, WV 25305 Telephone 304-348-0444 FAX 304-348-4076

WISCONSIN

Bureau of Aeronautics Division of Transportation Assistance Wisconsin Department of Transportation P.O. Box 7914 Madison, WI 53707-7914 Telephone 608-266-3351 FAX 608-267-6748 WYOMING

Wyoming Department of Transportation 5300 Bishop Boulevard P.O. box 1708 Cheyenne, WY 82002-9019 Telephone 307-777-4480 FAX 307-637-7352

Appendix 2

Aviation Organization/Associations

AIRPORT CONSULTANTS COUNCIL

421 King Street, Suite 220 Alexandria, VA 22314 Telephone 703-683-5900 FAX 703-549-4749

AMERICAN HELICOPTER SOCIETY

217 N. Washington St. Alexandria, VA 22314 Telephone 703-684-6777 FAX 703-739-9279

ASSOCIATION OF AIR MEDICAL SERVICES

35 S. Raymond Avenue, Suite 205 Pasadena, CA 91105 Telephone 818-793-1232 FAX 818-793-1039

HELICOPTER ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL

1619 Duke Street Alexandria, VA 22314-3406 Telephone 703 683-4646 FAX 703-683-4745

HELICOPTER SAFETY ADVISORY CONFERENCE

c/o Exxon USA-Offshore Division

P.O. Box 60626

New Orleans, LA 70160 Telephone 504-561-4314 FAX 504-561-4808

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE AVIATION

OFFICIALS

Metro Plaza One-Suite 505 8401 Colesville Road Silver Spring, MD 20910 Telephone 301-588-0587 FAX 301-588-1288

NATIONAL BUSINESS AIRCRAFT ASSOCIATION

1200 18th Street, Northwest, Suite 200

Washington, D.C. 20036 Telephone 202-783-9000 FAX 202-331-8364

NATIONAL EMS PILOTS ASSOCIATION

35 South Raymond Avenue, No. 205 Pasadena, CA 91105 Telephone 818-577-7600 FAX 818-793-1039

FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION AIRPORTS DIVISION OFFICES

ALASKAN REGION Alaskan Regional Office AK Airports Division, AAL-600 222 West 7th Avenue, Box 14 Anchorage, AK 99513 Telephone 907-271-5438 FAX 907-271-2851

NEW ENGLAND REGION CT, MA, ME, NH, RI, VT New England Regional Office Airports Division, ANE-600 12 New England Executive Park Burlington, MA 01803-5299 Telephone 617-238-7044 FAX 617-238-7608

EASTERN REGION DC, DE, MD, NJ, NY, PA, VA, WV Eastern Regional Office Airports Division, AEA-600 JFK International Airport Fitzgerald Federal Building Jamaica, NY 11430 Telephone 718-553-1239 FAX 718-995-9219

SOUTHERN REGION AL, FL, GA, KY, NC, SC, TN, PR, VI Southern Regional Office Airports Division, ASO-600 1701 Columbia Avenue College Park, Georgia 30337 Telephone 404-305-6700 FAX 404-305-6730

GREAT LAKES REGION IL, IN, MI, MN, ND, OH, SD, WI Great Lakes Regional Office Airports Division, AGL-600 2300 East Devon Avenue Des Plaines, IL 60018 Telephone 708-294-7272 FAX 708-294-7036 CENTRAL REGION
IA, KS, MO, NE
Central Regional Office
Airports Division, ACE-600
601 East 12th Street
Kansas City, MO 64106
Telephone 816-426-4698
FAX 816-426-3265

SOUTHWEST REGION AR, LA, NM, OK, TX Southwest Regional Office Airports Division, ASW-600 2061 Meacham Boulevard Fort Worth, Texas 76173-4298 Telephone 817-222-5600 FAX 817-22-5984

NORTHWEST MOUNTAIN REGION CO, ID, MT, OR, UT, WA, WY Northwest Regional Office Airports Division, ANM-600 1601 Lind Avenue SW, Suite 540 Renton, Washington 98055-4056 Telephone 206-227-2600 FAX 206-227-1600

WESTERN-PACIFIC REGION AZ, CA, HI, NV, GU Western-Pacific Regional Office Airports Division, AWP-600 15000 Aviation Boulevard Hawthorne, CA 920261 Telephone 310-297-1240 FAX 310-297-0490